

to the survival of Michigan patients. Since their inception, Survival Flights have demonstrated outstanding courage and commitment to the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and the entire nation to the University of Michigan Survival Flights in recognition of 20 years of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them and wishing them continued success as they serve the citizens of the great State of Michigan.

#### A TRIBUTE FOR SALLIE SLAUGHTER-GARDNER

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Sallie Slaughter-Gardner. I believe that it is fitting for public officials to celebrate those individuals whose life story can serve as a model for us all.

Mr. Speaker, Sallie Slaughter-Gardner was born on February 26, 1916, in an era very different than the one to which we are accustomed. Because her family needed Sallie to work in the cotton fields, she was not afforded the opportunity to complete a formal education. She was, however, blessed with a pleasant disposition, a commitment to her family, and a devotion to her community.

On January 23, 1932, Sallie was united in Holy Matrimony to Dozier Gardner. After the birth of her first child, Willie Clifford, the Gardner family emigrated from her birthplace of Buena Vista, Georgia to Brooklyn, New York, an area I am now privileged to represent in the United States Congress. "Aunt Sallie," as she was affectionately known, quickly adapted to her new surroundings, and, during the historical African American migration to the North, Sallie opened her home to the needy, providing hot meals, shelter, and good will to all.

Sallie Slaughter-Gardner made her family and her church the focus of her life. Sallie began her Christian walk in the Baptist Church. Later, she joined the Evergreen Church of God in Christ, where she accepted Christ as her Personal Savior under the leadership of Elder Eugene Williams, the founder of the Church. Sallie was a member of the hospitality club, the mother's board, and was president of the usher board of the church. Her sumptuous apple and sweet potato pies became mainstays among the congregation, and indeed, she was known for her generosity and kind heart. Until her death at the age of eighty-six, Sallie guided parishioners to their seat and imbued them with her warmth.

Sallie was known as a spiritual lady with a heart of gold. Her sweet disposition was most clearly demonstrated when she cared for a neighbor stricken with a crippling illness. Her neighbor, bitter over her ailment, alienated all who attempted to care for her. But Sallie was not deterred and she cooked, cleaned, and cared for this woman.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the Evergreen Church of God in Christ's 58th Church Anniversary, the Church is in the process of memorializing this incredible individual. Sallie always said "Let my life speak for me."

Mr. Speaker, her life truly speaks volumes to us and shows us the kind of conduct befitting all of God's children.

HONORING DR. JOHN GUSHA

#### HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Gusha, a dentist who mobilized dental societies and nonprofit groups to launch the Central Massachusetts Oral Health Initiative for low-income residents of Massachusetts. Dr. Gusha is among the outstanding individuals from across the country selected this year to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award of \$120,000.

Dr. Gusha founded and served as project director of the Central Massachusetts Oral Health Initiative, a collaborative of 25 organizations focused on improving oral health in the region.

Growing up in a large, blue-collar family, Dr. Gusha was inspired by his faith and the work ethic of his immigrant heritage to give back to his community. After working his way through dental school and setting up a private practice, he began volunteering at a free medical clinic and was struck by the magnitude of oral health problems he saw among patients.

He recruited his colleagues in local and State dental societies and nonprofit groups to launch the Oral Health Initiative in 1999. The initiative opened a free dental clinic where dentists, hygienists, and assistants volunteer their services. It also educates physicians and nurses to perform oral health screenings, and trains outreach workers to teach young mothers about preventing tooth decay, the most common chronic condition of childhood.

In addition to volunteering his dental services, Dr. Gusha has pushed for policy changes aimed at improving Massachusetts' health. He helped win State legislation allowing a pilot program to expand access to dentists for Medicaid patients in central Massachusetts. In 1993, as chairman of the Holden Board of Health, he championed fluoridation of the water supply and prohibition of second-hand smoke in public places.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dr. John Gusha for his accomplishments as founder of the Central Massachusetts Oral Health Initiative and for his efforts put forth in achieving a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. ADRIENNE E. BYERS

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Ms. Adrienne E. Byers on her retirement from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield after thirty-four years of dedicated service.

Joining Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield in January of 1969, Ms. Byers has worked in many different facets of the organization, beginning in the Cashiers Department and moving to her current position with Special Letters. Working with many areas of the corporation

has given Ms. Byers a great and unique understanding of Horizon and has allowed her to help enrich a company which is truly fortunate to have her as a dedicated employee.

Raised in the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey, Ms. Byers spent her early years growing with the programs at the YMCA where I was fortunate enough to meet this promising young woman. Since those early years she has proven herself time and time again and I am proud to see what a dedicated and motivated individual she has become.

In addition to her devotion to Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ms. Byers has also invested time in the community as a whole. A strong advocate of community service, she serves on the Advisory Board for Community Agencies Corporation and on the board of directors for Friendly Fuld. She is also Chair for the Newark Fighting Back Partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in congratulating Ms. Adrienne E. Byers on her long and successful career with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield. I wish her the very best in her retirement and a healthy and happy future.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. GWEN BOWEN

#### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the splendid efforts and notable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding artist, educator and civic leader for her exceptional record of invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Ms. Gwen Bowen on the occasion of her 50th year teaching dance in Denver, Colorado.

"Miss B," as she is affectionately known by current and former students, was born in Denver, Colorado. She attended McKinley Elementary School, Grant Junior High School and graduated from Denver's South High School. Following her graduation from the University of Denver, she returned to McKinley Elementary School to teach first grade. But her love of dance inspired her to pursue a career in dance education.

Ms. Bowen has amassed a distinguished record of service to our community. She founded the Gwen Bowen School of Dance where she has taught hundreds of young people, middle-aged and senior citizens throughout her career—a career distinguished by caring, competence and a sense of commitment to the community. Among her many students who have pursued professional careers in dance is Lynne Taylor Corbett, Tony Award Nominee for her choreography of the Broadway Play, *Swing*. Last year, Ms. Corbett came to Denver to pay tribute to this great lady of dance at a fundraiser for Arts for All, an organization founded by Ms. Bowen to create a community non-profit facility for all the arts in Denver. Despite having taught so many that have made major contributions to dance, she believes that her greatest rewards have come from teaching dance to blind students and the

developmentally disabled. It comes as no surprise that Dance Magazine, a national publication, has recognized her outstanding contribution to the art of dance.

Ms. Bowen has continually espoused that "Dancing is a language and it touches people in many ways." Her life is a testament to this belief and while she has been an exceptional educator in dance, she has been an educator who teaches young and old alike to pursue meaning in their lives as well as the value of giving back to the community.

Please join me in commending Ms. Gwen Bowen, a distinguished artist and educator. It is the strong leadership she exhibits on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING THE WORK OF JOSE GARCIA

#### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Jose Garcia, the founder and director of Project CARE in El Paso, TX. Mr. Garcia recently received national recognition from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Program. The prestigious award includes a \$120,000 grant to provide additional funding to further his work.

Mr. Garcia, a pharmacist, helped found Project CARE, a treatment and education program for asthma and diabetes patients, in 2001. Project CARE uses pharmacists as "promotores" to manage uncomplicated diabetes and asthma, reducing costs by targeting the uninsured and frequent users of the hospital's emergency department. It also helps fill the gap in the physician shortage along the Texas-Mexico border, where more than a third of El Paso residents are uninsured and nearly 40 percent of families live below the poverty line.

Mr. Garcia helped to launch Project CARE after he observed, through his work as a pharmacist at R.E. Thomas Hospital, that access to care, medication, and education was the solution to longterm preventable illness. He also realized that the patients who used the most hospital resources were those who could not afford their prescription co-payments under the county's indigent care program. Mr. Garcia then began covering patient's co-payments out of his own paycheck before founding Project CARE.

Mr. Garcia also established El Circulo de Hombres, a collaborative drug treatment model approved by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy that features "platicas," discussions in which Latino men talk openly about health issues and take control of their own care.

The gentleman who nominated Mr. Garcia for the Community Health Leadership award put it best when he said, "Jose has a vision to improve access to health care alternatives to the marginalized and disenfranchised of our community. He has successfully developed a cultural, linguistic, and social home for the poor and uninsured."

Mr. Speaker, Jose Garcia has demonstrated tremendous leadership in meeting the urgent health needs of many in the El Paso commu-

nity. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved award.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALICEMARIE SLAVEN- EMOND

#### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, who was recently honored as one of only ten people in the entire nation to be selected as a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. This prestigious award includes a grant of over \$100,000 to enhance AliceMarie's work.

AliceMarie is cofounder, primary health care provider and volunteer executive director of the Northeast San Juan County Health and Wellness Center in Aztec, NM. The center is a community owned, nonprofit clinic, where patients receive primary care services, preventive screenings, immunizations, pre- and post-natal care and free medications. Services are offered on a sliding-fee scale, depending on income.

Working as a school nurse in the Aztec school district, AliceMarie was uniquely aware of children who were suffering medically because their families were uninsured or could not afford a doctor. To address these demands, AliceMarie, along with other concerned citizens, launched the planning process for a clinic in 1992 and opened its doors in 2000. The early stages were very difficult, but because of the steadfast commitment, determination, enthusiasm, tenacity and hard work, AliceMarie and her cofounders achieved a "miracle." But AliceMarie is always quick to acknowledge the "incredible graciousness" of San Juan County. She reports that without the donations of cash, supplies, labor and many other services by local businesses, medical professionals and private benefactors, success could not have been possible.

The San Juan County Health and Wellness Center is an example of how one person can make a difference. Because of AliceMarie's unending determination, the quality of life for hundreds of people has been improved. The clinic began serving about 35 patients a month and now provides medical attention to 185 to 200 children and adults monthly, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or financial means. In addition, AliceMarie is proud of the fact that the center is also a resource facility that provides valuable health care education and information to the community.

AliceMarie Slaven-Emond is not only an extremely caring and dedicated nurse practitioner, but an extraordinary visionary and leader. Having visited the clinic myself, I have experienced first hand the incredible work that is being accomplished. I am proud to recognize AliceMarie today before my colleagues as a model of commitment to the betterment of the human condition. I also extend my deep appreciation to her cofounders, staff and San Juan County citizens for helping to make a dream a reality. As uninsured families continue to increase at the rate of 13 percent this year alone, AliceMarie and the San Juan County Health and Wellness Center are helping to fill the gap and are heroes in the truest

sense. A great need existed, and caring and giving citizens rose to the occasion, with AliceMarie as the catalyst. I salute this very great lady.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE WILKIE D. FERGUSON, JR.

#### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 9, 2003, our country lost a truly great man, U.S. District Court Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. He was an exemplary jurist—experienced, fair, compassionate, knowledgeable and firmly committed to justice. His death is a huge loss to the federal bench, to our community, and to our Nation.

Wilkie Demeritte Ferguson, Jr. was born May 11, 1938, to Bahamian immigrants and raised in the Liberty Square public housing project.

Judge Ferguson attended all-black public schools: Liberty City Elementary, Dorsey Middle and Northwestern Sr. High. He received his B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting from Florida A & M University. He was certified in Fundamentals of Computer Programming at Philco Technological Institute in Philadelphia and received his Masters in Financial Administration from Drexel University. He continued on to Howard University where he obtained his J.D. Degree.

He was the first black jurist appointed to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court and Third District Court of Appeals, and the second black federal judge in the Southern District of Florida.

Judge Ferguson knew every aspect of the law, and he knew people. In the Civil Rights Division of the old U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and as a staff attorney for Legal Services of Greater Miami, he learned firsthand about the problems that ordinary people face in their everyday lives and how the legal system and our courts are often their only recourse for justice.

His reputation for fairness and hard work preceeded his elevation to the federal bench in 1993, for at that time he had already had three decades of experience on the bench.

Judge Ferguson has been an exceptional role model and inspiration for young African-Americans interested in the law. He was a trail blazer whose competence and wisdom set a high standard for a profession that already has high standards. His death leaves a huge gap in our federal judiciary, in our community, and in our hearts, for Judge Ferguson showed us all how good we can be.

Over the years he has received numerous honors and accolades such as: Williams H. Hastie Award, "Courage and Scholarship in Legal Writing", National Bar Association (2000) Distinguished Alumni Award, Howard University University Law Alumni Association.

He was a member of the Church of Incarnation of Miami, Florida. There will forever be a void in the pew where he stood every Sunday and sang inspirational hymns.

The entire Miami-Dade community mourns the loss of this humble and great man who overcame huge obstacles yet also did common things uncommonly well. My prayers goes out to his wife, Miami-Dade Commissioner Betty Ferguson and his children, Tawnicia Ferguson-Rowan and Wilkie III.